

To: North.Phil@epa.gov[]
Cc: []
From: CN=Steve Bouck/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Mon 7/18/2011 8:57:49 PM
Subject: Bristol Bay Ecological Impacts of Development Survey

Good morning Mr. North,
Christine Psyk, Associate Director of OWW, suggested that I contact you about the question I asked her not long ago. I am a biologist working as a contractor in the Drinking Water Unit as "Data Management Technician". Previously, I spent 15 years working in various fisheries enterprises, sometimes as Fisheries Observer and Biologist for National Marine Fisheries Service.
Most of my fisheries ventures were in the Bering Sea and Aleutians, Bristol Bay, and Gulf of Alaska. Other ventures took me to the Pacific West Coast, the Atlantic Gulf Stream and the Russian coast of Siberia and Sea of Okhotsk. I am a fluent Russian speaker. I have been involved in groundfish, pelagic fish, and crab fisheries ventures both research and commercial.
My question relates to the focus of the Bristol Bay ecological survey focusing , it would seem from the mission statements, solely on the ecology and life-cycle of salmon populations and the potential for harm to the salmon resources by large scale development in Bristol Bay river basins. I have experience with the larger community of ecologically and economically important species that thrive in the Bristol Bay, Bering Sea and Aleutian areas. This community includes sole and flounders, king and tanner crab, pacific cod, rockfish, pollock, halibut, urchins, and other shellfish. Then, there are populations of marine mammals including seals, sea otters, Stellar sea lions, Orca killer whales, Beluga whales, and a large walrus rookery at Round Island. Tidal flows and species migrations guarantee that any harmful biological impacts from development, which degrade the Bristol Bay marine environment and viability of Bristol Bay marine life, will necessarily have wider-ranging deleterious impacts on Bering Sea and Aleutian marine life. Seabirds are also important and intimately connected to the marine ecosystem of Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Island waters.
So, my question is- are all of the other ecological community members being considered in the current EPA survey of possible or likely impacts on Bristol Bay ecology issuing from human development in the river basins emptying into Bristol Bay? And, if this survey is narrowly focused on the salmon resource, why isn't the larger ecology and commercial importance of the Bristol Bay ecosystem being taken into consideration?
I do not expect a very involved response, but I will appreciate whatever brief response you have time for. This survey is a large and complex undertaking, even if it is narrowed to salmon impacts. Thank you and good luck with this important work.

Regards,

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